

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification, abstract and claims are being amended to improve their form without any change in their scope.

Enclosed are copies of two documents that are believed to have been published in November 2003. No discussion is necessary because both documents are in the English language. No fee or certificate is required since the documents are being filed before issuance of the first Office Action.

The present claims are supported by the disclosure in Figures 5-7 and the corresponding text in the parent application Serial No. 10/070,482 filed February 27, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,701,960, which is a 371 of PCT/CH99/00403 filed August 31, 1999, and accordingly have an effective priority date of August 31, 1999. Hence, the two enclosed documents have no effect on the patentability of the present claims.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to Addressee in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 13, 2004

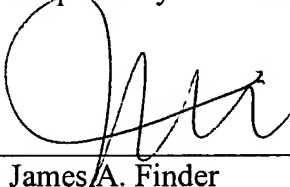
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October 13, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures : 1) Vuong, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0205526A1, filed May 2, 2002 published November 6, 2003.
2) Adham et al., "Long Beach's Dual-Stage NF Beats Single-Stage SWRO," Desalination & Water Reuse, Vol. 1313, pages 18-21 (November-December 2003).